

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6; please cancel claims 2 and 9-11.

C1
Claim 1 (currently amended) A composition comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm , an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to 2000, and produced using a source material that will introduce phosphate ions, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P_2O_5 .

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented) The flaky α -alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claim 4 (withdrawn) A method for producing the flake-like α -alumina particles according to claim 1, comprising a hydrothermal synthesis process of an aqueous slurry in which the aqueous slurry comprises an alumina hydrate and/or an alumina gel, having a particle size regulated to not more than 2 μm in average particle size and not more than 5.0 μm in maximum particle size, as a raw starting material, and phosphoric

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

acid ions are added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-3} to 1.0×10^{-1} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material.

C1
Cont

Claim 5 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, in which besides the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material and the phosphoric acid ions, α -alumina particles having an particle major diameter of less than $1 \mu\text{m}$ and a specific surface area of at least $5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ are further added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-6} to 5.0×10^{-3} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material for the hydrothermal synthesis process, so that the resultant flake-like α -alumina particles are controlled in particle major diameter.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A cosmetic [containing] comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to $25 \mu\text{m}$ and an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to 2000, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P_2O_5 .

Claim 7 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α -alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to $15 \mu\text{m}$.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

C1
Contd

Claim 8 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α -alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com